

**Date:** June 15, 2015

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**From:** Jose L. Lopez, Sr., Chief of Police  
**Subject:** 2014 Traffic Stop Data Review

### **Executive Summary**

The Durham Police Department (DPD) has concluded its traffic stop data review for 2014. The review, compiled from SBI-122 traffic stop reports submitted by officers, is contained in an in-depth report designed to identify any trends and patterns that may have resulted from profiling based on race or bias.

The 2014 traffic stop review contains data pertaining to the initial purpose of a traffic stop, the enforcement action and the potential for being searched during a stop.

Highlights of the findings are below.

- There were 21,939 total traffic stops in 2014.
- Of the drivers stopped, 12,880 (58.7%) were black and 8,440 (38.5%) were white; 2.6% of the traffic stops involving black drivers resulted in consent searches compared to 1% for white drivers.
- Durham had relatively similar rates of racial disparity for both stops and searches as other major cities in North Carolina.
- Officers with the highest racial disparity in vehicle stops also worked in the districts which represent the highest minority population, and the highest level of policing due to higher crime rates and calls for service.
- Of the 21,939 traffic stops in 2014, only 5.56% resulted in some type of search being conducted, including 428 consent searches (1.94%) and 478 probable cause searches (2.17%).
- Of the 1,227 traffic stops in which a search occurred, 354 (28.85%) resulted in contraband being found. The rate was 10.98% for consent searches, and 45.61% for probable cause searches, with no significant disparities observed by race/ethnicity.
- Biannually, the Department conducts a detailed analysis for any officer with at least 25 traffic stops and a 75% or higher stop rate of minorities. The analysis includes the time and location of the stop, whether a search occurred, the demographics of the driver, and a random review of the in-car camera video for the officer's stops. Based on this analysis, no unexplained disparities were identified.

**Recommendation**

For City Council to receive the 2014 Traffic Stop Data Review and authorize the Durham Police Department to continue to review traffic stop data in order to identify any trends, patterns or issues that may provide an early indication of race, or bias-based policing. The Durham Police Department, biannually, conducts a detailed analysis for any officer with at least 25 traffic stops and a 75% or higher stop rate for minorities. This analysis includes time and location of the stop, whether a search occurred, driver demographics, and a random review of in-car camera video for the officer's stops.

**Background**

Concerns were raised from members of the community and city council in reference to the traffic stop data that was reported to the state.

**Issues and Analysis**

This report is designed to identify any trends or patterns in traffic stops that may have resulted from profiling based on race or bias. The analysis reported in the Executive Summary did not identify any unexplained disparities in the Durham Police Department's 2014 traffic stops.

**Alternatives**

To hire a subject matter expert to analyze the Durham Police Department traffic stop data in order to identify any bias-based trends or unexplainable disparity.

**Financial Impact**

The current financial impact of our analysis consists only of the time and effort of our full-time employees.

**SDBE Summary**

This item does not require a review by the office of Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance.

**Attachments**

Internal Staff Inspection Report dated March 18  
Executive Command Staff Summary May 20  
Traffic Stop Data Power Point